

A GREAT HOME MISSION FIELD.

Louisiana has fifty-nine parishes, or counties. Of these twenty-eight have not a single Presbyterian church, and eleven but one each, and eight but two each. The population is considerably above a million and a half inhabitants. Of these about seven thousand represent Presbyterianism. The Assembly's statistics here include some churches in Mississippi, now transferred to the Synod of that State. Nearly one-half of the numerical strength of Presbyterianism is found in New Orleans alone. There are fewer than twenty ministers, outside of New Orleans, in the entire State. There are three hundred thousand French speaking people and fifty thousand Italians in the State, besides, perhaps, fifteen thousand Spaniards, Hungarians, Syrians and others.

Here surely is a field into which the Church at large should pour money and men. Others are doing this. The Methodists, Baptists and Disciples are lavishing funds upon the work. The richness of the soil, its many products, especially in sugar, rice, cotton, salt, sulphur, oil and lumber, and its now recognized healthfulness, are attracting people from every quarter. It is doubtful if there is a naturally richer country in America than all Southern Louisiana. Towns of from three thousand to eight thousand people have rapidly sprung up all through this section, and in some of them we have no work whatever in progress. The field is white unto the harvest. Good men, faithful men, can nowhere reap a surer harvest or have a better support. The Home Mission spirit, however, is needed to bring them here.

THE WORKINGMEN WANT IT.

A popular magazine voices the plea of the workingman for a day of rest. It comes in a peculiar tone. Not long ago public sentiment plead for him with the words, "He's worked six days; let him enjoy the seventh," and as a result Sunday was in many quarters thrown wide open, saloons, ball games, excursions, theatres, and other businesses, work and employment being in operation as much on Sunday as on any other day. But now the cry is coming up from the workingman who is used to keep their traffic and work going. He is beginning to inquire just where he comes in, in the game, and it is dawning upon him that the personal liberty and other high sounding things which the others indulge in are at his expense. He is worked harder than ever to make the holiday for his neighbor. And so, no wonder, he is beginning to cry for his share. It is stated that the circle of Sunday workingmen is widened of late, to accommodate the liberty claiming class, that the army of Sunday laborers in the United States has increased, in the last ten years, fifty-eight per cent, and enrolls now not fewer than four million people! These will be heard from before long.

Falsehood is in many things besides untrue statements. And especially is it found in making impressions which are misleading, or not in accord with fact. The very care and adroitness with which such impressions are made show that they are deliberate, premeditated, and conscious departure from the truth.

THE ORDINATION OF MR. FITCH.

The facts concerning the recent ordination of Mr. George E. Fitch, by the Presbytery of New York, are given in the "Presbyterian" of July 14. It appears that in April last, Mr. Fitch and two other students of Union Seminary (New York) applied to the Presbytery of New York for licensure. The examination revealed grave divergencies from the truth in doctrinal matters, such as the fall of Adam. The doctrine of the fall was distinctly disavowed by some, or all of them. In April the Presbytery refused to license them, but appointed a committee to confer with them. At the stated meeting of Presbytery in June, by a two-third vote, Presbytery granted to them a license. At the close of that stated meeting, about seven o'clock p. m., a motion was made to adjourn to Wednesday evening, July 7. Only a few members were present when this motion was made. No circular was sent out to advise the members of presbytery that such a meeting was to be held. On Wednesday evening the pastors were at their mid-week prayer services, in ignorance of the meeting of Presbytery. Out of 240 ministers, only 19 were present. Mr. Fitch applied for ordination in order to accept an appointment as a missionary to China, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. By a vote of 10 to 7, this adjourned meeting declined to repeat the examination on theology; by a vote of 9 to 7, the meeting decided to ordain the young man. He was ordained, but six of the ministers entered a protest against the proceeding, refused to take part in the ordination, and withdrew. The matter is one that needs no comment.

Mere intellectualism and culture are not favorable to the reception of the gospel. They tend to produce superciliousness rather than faith. The preaching of Christ to the Greeks was "foolishness." Despite his great sermon on Mars' Hill and the vigorous efforts which Paul doubtless made to plant a church in Athens, nothing seems to have come of his work there except that a few, as Dyonisius the Areopagite, and Damaris, clave to him. The trouble with Athens was that it was too confident in its polytheism and too self-satisfied intellectually.

While worldliness and unbelief are bombarding the strongholds of Christian faith in the homeland, the champions of that faith are steadily advancing on the hosts of heathenism and extending the domain of peace and righteousness. Last year the amount contributed by various organizations in the United States to Foreign Missions was \$9,147,364. There are thirty-seven such organizations, having in the mission field 2,063 men and 3,054 women, with native helpers estimated at 27,319. Connected with their work are 6,745 churches with 672,108 communing members, besides adherents and non-professors who are under Christian instruction. The contributions made by the natives in these foreign fields amount to \$1,564,981. The offerings to Foreign Missions by Protestants in all lands last year was about \$21,000,000. It is probable that this year American churches will contribute one-half of the world's total gifts to the great work of evangelizing and civilizing all the peoples of the earth.